

## Grants Available to Start Up Small Community Development Projects

Are you a grass-roots community group that is looking for seed money to get a project started?

The Self Development of Peoples Committee (SDOP) of the Presbytery of Philadelphia was recently reauthorized to provide small grants to groups in low-income areas seeking to start up or expand a profit making business in the Philadelphia area.

Over the past several years the SDOP committee has funded such projects as equipment for the Eastwick Bike Patrol, certification for classroom assistants at a public school; containers for a team collecting used household cooking oil; seeds, topsoil and tools for several community gardens; help for an independent taxi drivers group to obtain workers compensation insurance; and renovating a building to house recovering addicts.

The rules for SDOP grants are that project or program is controlled by those who benefit from the collective effort, 50 percent of the decision makers must have incomes less than the federal poverty level, and the activity improves the community in which it will be located.

If an organization or group meets those guidelines it may be eligible to apply for an SDOP grant. While the SDOP grants are provided through The Presbyterian Church USA, no denominational connection is required for the grants.

For more information, contact tedbehr1@yahoo.com or visit <https://presbyphl.org/leadership/committees/sdop/>

*Ted Behr is a member of the Phila. Presbytery Self Development of Peoples Committee and former editor of the Globe Times.*



Members of the Phila. Presbytery Self Development of People (SDOP) committee, Rev. Todd Stavrakos, Lois Hayman, Julia Hill and Ted Behr met with national and regional officials for their periodic recertification to process SDOP grant applications from area community groups. Alonzo Johnson, National Coordinator for the Self-Development of People program is third from the right. The meeting held in April at The Common Place, Chester Ave. and 58th St.

## Penrose Teacher Receives Prestigious Lindback Award

By Ted Behr

When one arrives at a school at 7:00 a.m. for an interview with an award-winning teacher and you are welcomed at the door by a smiling, bright-eyed student, the message is as clear as the morning

sunrise behind you... this is a special place!

That was the case at Penrose Elementary School last week when 2019 Lindback awardee, Jennifer Spano Ka-

**PENROSE TEACHER**  
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Penrose Elementary 2nd Grade teacher Jessica Kalish (right) with 1st Grade instructor Damali go over the day's learning objectives before school. Kalish was the recipient of one of this year's coveted Lindback Awards for teaching excellence.

## Participate in a Focus Group



Adults 35 and Younger  
June 27th, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Dinner and Participation Gifts Provided

## Register by June 25th

Email [lorraine@southwestcdc.org](mailto:lorraine@southwestcdc.org)

or call 215-729-3948